New Schemes to Boost Tourism

4738. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the new schemes to boost tourism in the country which have been introduced in the country during the last six months;

(b) the places of tourist interest where these new schemes are being implemented; and

(c) the new incentives or domestic tourists and foreign tourists that have been introduced in above period?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): (a) and (b) During the last six months a new draft National Tourism Policy, and an Eco-Tourism Policy and Guidelines, have been finalised and the Ministry is organising Buddha Mahotsava at Sarnath and Bodhgaya.

(c) The Government does not provide incentives to domestic and foreign tourists.

Special Fund to Develop Tourism Infrastructure

4739. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to create special fund to develop tourism infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details of the management of funds; and

(c) whether the National Tourism Development Policy will include foreign private participation in Indian Tourism Industry?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Council is proposed for the management of the funds.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Tourist Circuits in Orissa

4740. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourist circuits set up in the State of Orissa.

(b) the steps taken to develop those tourist circuits during the last five years;

(c) the amount spent on the development of those tourist circuits;

(d) the specific plan formulated to develop tourism in Orissa during the Ninth Plan; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): (a) Tourist Circuits identified in the State of Orissa are:—

1. Bhubaneshwar-Puri-Konark

2. Bhubaneshwar - Lalitgiri - Ratnagiri - Udayagiri - Kendraparha Chandbali - Bhadrak (Sun Temple)

3. Harishankar - Narusimhanath - Hirakud - Sambalpur - Vedvyas (Gandhamardhan Circuit).

4. Koraput - Araku - Valley - Nandapur - Gupteswar - Rayagada (Panchabati Circuit).

(b) and (c) Development of tourist circuits is the responsibility of the State Governments/Union territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance for development of tourism infrastructure on the basis of specific project proposals received from State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and availability of funds. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India sanctioned financial assistance of Rs. 358.85 lakhs for the implementation of 14 projects in the identified circuits during the last five years.